



# CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT

Justices							
Confidence Score	Strong Democrat	Strong Democrat	Indeterminate	Mild Democrat	Strong Democrat	Indeterminate	Indeterminate
Opinion Partners	✓	✓					
Dissenting Minority			✓	✓		✓	
Determining Majority	✓	✓			✓		✓
Lone Dissenter	✓						

## SUMMARY

- ▶ Number of justices: **7**
- ▶ Number of cases: **76**
- ▶ Percentage of cases with a unanimous ruling: **89.5% (68)**
- ▶ Justice most often writing the majority opinion: **Justice Kruger (13)**
- ▶ Per curiam decisions: **5**
- ▶ Concurring opinions: **13**
- ▶ Justice with most concurring opinions: **Justice Cuellar (7)**
- ▶ Dissenting opinions: **5**
- ▶ Justice with most dissenting opinions: **Justice Cantil-Sakauye (2)**

## COURT CONTENTION

### Opinion partners

Justices Liu and Cuellar dissented together twice, concurred together three times, and concurred in part and dissented in part together in one case. In our *Ballotpedia Courts: State Partisanship* study Liu and Cuéllar recorded Strong Democratic Confidence Scores.

### Dissenting minority

In 2020, the California Supreme Court decided one case by split decision. In that case, Justices Cantil-Sakauye, Corrigan, and Kruger were in the minority. In our *Ballotpedia Courts: State Partisanship* study, Cantil-Sakauye recorded an

Indeterminate Confidence Score, Corrigan recorded an Indeterminate Confidence Score, and Kruger recorded a Mild Democratic Confidence Score.

### **Determining majority**

In the one case decided by split decision, Justices Chin, Cuéllar, Groban, and Liu ruled in the majority. In our *Ballotpedia Courts: State Partisanship* study, Justice Chin recorded an Indeterminate Confidence Score. Justices Cuéllar, Groban, and Liu recorded Strong Democratic Confidence Scores.

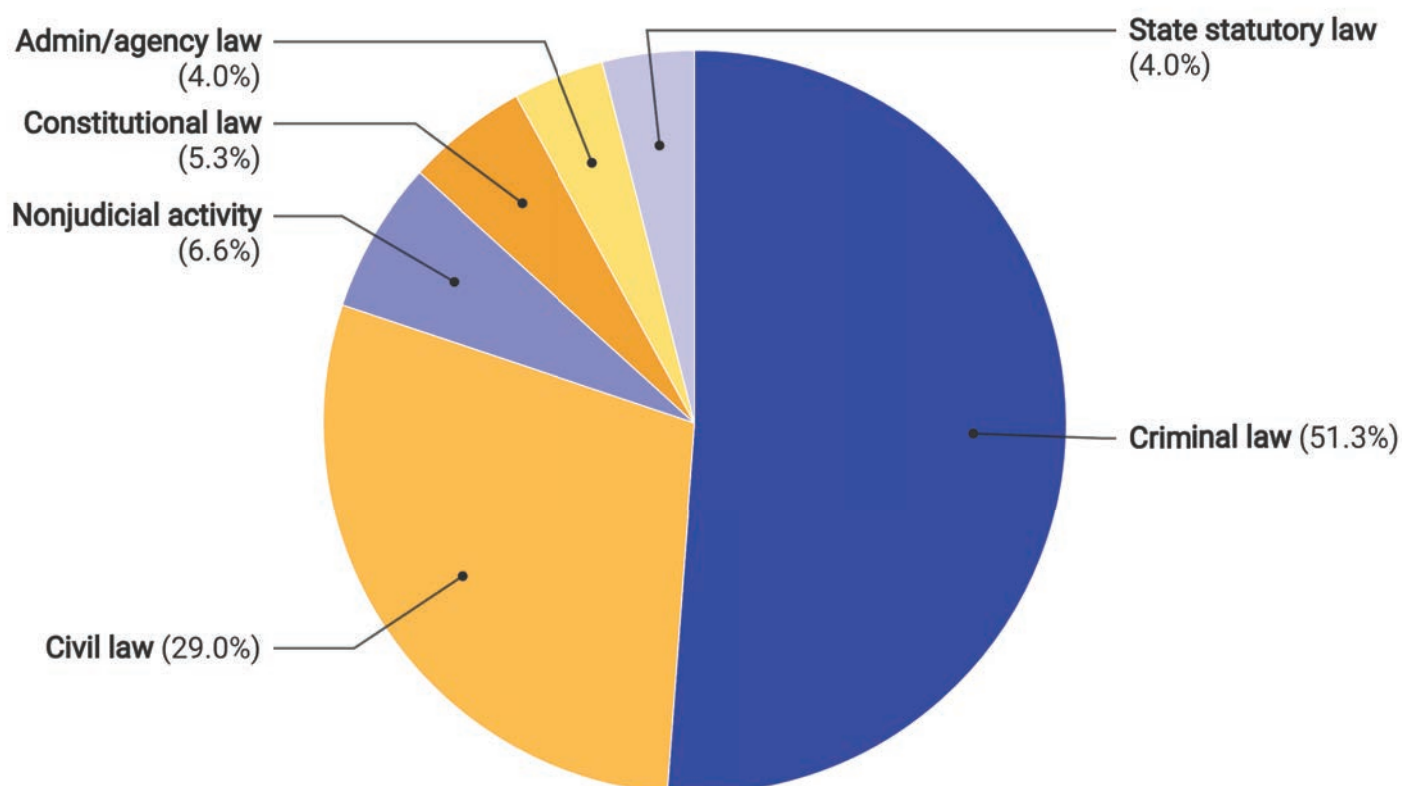
### **Lone dissenter**

There was a lone dissenter in only one case before the California Supreme Court in 2020. Justice Liu wrote the only lone dissent.

## **COURT JURISDICTION**

The California Constitution gives the supreme court jurisdiction in mandamus, certiorari, habeas corpus, and prohibition cases. The California Supreme Court chooses cases that address legal issues that are relevant and significant across the state. The court has appellate jurisdiction to review parts of or entire cases brought before the California Courts of Appeal or any ruling that results in a judgment of death. The court also reviews the recommendations from the Commission on Judicial Performance and from the California State Bar for misconduct and disciplinary hearings. The Public Utilities Commission is the only entity that appeals directly to the supreme court.

## Case types decided by California Supreme Court, 2020



**BALLOT**PEDIA

The most common cases heard by the California Supreme Court in 2020 was criminal law. Of the 76 cases it heard, 39 were criminal cases, or 51.3 percent of its total caseload for the year.

A criminal case involves a final criminal appeal before the court of last resort. The second most common cases that reached the supreme court were civil law. A civil case is one that involves a dispute between two parties, one of whom seeks reparations or damages. The California Supreme Court heard 22 civil law cases in 2020, or 28.9 percent of its total caseload for the year.

The third most common cases that reached the court were nonjudicial activity. A case is considered nonjudicial activity if it does not involve a formal hearing and discussion before the court. The California Supreme Court heard five nonjudicial activity cases in 2020, or 6.6 percent of its total caseload for the year.